

February 9, 2009

Senator John W. Fonfara
Legislative Office Building - Room 3900
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Fonfara@senatedems.ct.gov

Russ A. Morin
495 Brimfield Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109-3209
Russell.Morin@cga.ct.gov

re: Raw Milk COMMITTEE TESTIMONY
HB-06312 and HB-06313, State Support for Raw Milk Regulation

Dear Senator Fonfara and Representative Morin:

I write to you as a registered voter, Connecticut taxpayer and most importantly, a concerned resident and mother.

As you are well aware, the above reference legislation is soon to be decided. I urge you to pass this important legislation. While parents throughout the state make every effort to protect their children, there are times we need the State of Connecticut to take the lead role in such protection. This is the purpose of the state legislators, to protect those who require it.

This past summer, a close family friend went through the horrible ordeal of having their 2-year old hospitalized for weeks because of contaminated raw milk. A friend of that child's mother also had her child hospitalized as a result of trying to assist the first family that was affected by the contaminated raw milk. This happened because *ecoli* 0157 is easily transmitted by hand to mouth and toddlers and preschoolers are at an especially high risk of contracting this bacteria amongst themselves. A lifelong battle with kidney disease may be in the future for these children although we pray such is not the case.

This horrible incident could have been prevented if raw milk was not sold at Whole Foods, a well-known and reputable retailer. Consumers take for granted that items sold in reputable places are safe and free of defects. Such was clearly not the case in this instance.

To prevent this from happening again, the sale of raw milk needs to be prohibited in the State of Connecticut. At the very least, it must be limited to the farms where it is produced, more testing needs to be in place, warning labels affixed to the bottles, and warning posters placed at those farms. While good intentions are behind these producers of raw milk, the consequences of contamination are extreme and sometimes fatal. This bill will not only protect individuals, but also the public health of Connecticut. I urge your support.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue and your commitment to protecting the residents of Connecticut.

Sincerely,



Gail N. Maharajh
Wethersfield, CT